THE Numb. 19.

Female Tatler.

By Mrs. Crackenthorpe, *a Lady that knows every thing.*

From **Friday** September 9, to **Monday** September 12, 1709.

WHAT a Melancholy Conſideration is it to Perſons of Condition and Merit themſelves, to reflect on the Practices of ſuch as are without it, and how deplorable the Circumſtances of theſe Wretches are, may be ſeen from the Concern the Virtuous *Eſtiphania* ſhew'd for the Honour of her Sex, in lamenting for the *Defection* of BELVEDERA A, *Lady* whoſe Family had been as untainted for their *Virtue*, as they were for their *Loyalty*, and through whoſe *Veins* Streams of the beſt Blood in *Europe* had run, without any loathſome Mixture or Defilement, for many Ages, till *Scipio* the Brave, the Generous and the Good, (*but for his too great Propenſity to the Fair Sex*) made Application, aud no ſooner *came* and *ſaw* BELVEDERA,but *conquer'd*. Not but *Scipio* had almoſt Charms enough to excuſe the ſurrender of Hers to his Propoſals; but he at that very Juncture was bleſs'd with the poſſeſſion of a *Conſort*, that had nothing wanting in her to accompliſh His Happineſs, or compleat Her *Own*. Her *Perſon* and her *Temper* ſeem'd of a Piece with each other, and the Beauties of her *Mind* were no ways inferiour to the Graces and Proportions of her *Body*; but the deprav'd Age had made it too faſhionable for the Men to break through Connubial Engagements, and too cuſtomary for the Women to ſit down contented and acquieſce under Matrimonial Diſappointments. *Attalinda*, for ſuch was the Name of our Illuſtrious Bride, bore hers with a Reſignation peculiar to her Senſe and Quality, well knowing that the Sallies of Youth were not to be accounted for, and that the only way to reclaim the *Diſorderly* Practices of a *Husband*, was to win him over to her ſelf by the *Regular* and *Submiſſive* Behaviour of a *Wife*. Nothing was wanting on her ſide to bring about a *Cure* ſhe had ſo great an Intereſt in, but all the Artifices that were poſſible to be made uſe of on her Part, and the Civilities and Endearments ſhe had recourſe to, in order to recover him from the Licentiouſneſs he was enter'd into, has hitherto been of no Effect, ſo much greater is his Addiction to the Polluted Enjoyments of *Belvedera*, than the Chaſte Embraces of the Divine *Attalinda*. This was the occaſion that rais'd *Eſtiphania*'s Indignation at the Procedure between *Scipio* and *Belvidera* to the higheſt Degree, till Pitty and Reſentment took their Turns alternately in her Soul, for the *Weakneſs* of the one and *Indeſcretion* of the other, when ſhe ſpy'd her going by my Window in her Coach with the Procureſs *Hilliana*. A Woman, that having done all the neceſſary Offices *in her way* from the Groom to his *Lordſhip*, by *proſtituting* her own Perſon in her *Young* Days, turn'd *Retrainer* in her *Old*, to the very ſame numerical Vocation, and made it her Buſineſs to expoſe *thoſe* of *others*. She was the very Picture of one of *Chaucer*'s Sempſtreſſes, that *kept a Shop for Countenance*, and did ſomething elſe *for Suſtenance*; and more than three hundred Years ſince that Deſcription took its Riſe, had not hinder'd the *Truth* and *Application* of it. *Heavens!* ſays *Eſtiphania*, at a ſight ſo aſtoniſhing as this was, *how wou'd the* Manes *of the deceas'd* Belvedera *be ſmitten with Horrow and Amazement as ſo ſurprizing a Conjunction!* Mamurras's *Converſation with* Cæſar *was not more odious than* Hilliana's *with her, and its as much beneath the one to be ſeen in ſuch deſpicable and abandoned Company as Hers is, as it was for the other to aſcend the* Roman *Tribunal juſt after he had been in His. Illuſtrious Births ſhou'd be accompanied with Illuſtrious Actions, and how unpardonable ſo ever her eſcape from* Modeſty *has been, in accepting the Careſſes of a* Heroe, *her Ladyſhip ſhou'd diſdain the Acquaintance of one that was infinitely worſe than a Common* Harlot. *But due Reſpects to the Memory of her Anceſtors, checks me in the very purſuit of my Reproaches, and the Reputation this Country has got by ev'ery other Branch of her Family, puts a ſtop to all other Remarks on her Conduct, than that it is much to be lamented that a Name which has been famous for ſo many* Centuries, *without any Interruption to its* Honour *or Grandeur, ſhould be blaſted in the very laſt Decays of it, and ſuffer an Eclipſe in its* Glory, *juſt at a Time when there is ſcarce any one left to Retrieve it.* But though the value ſhe reſtrain'd for the unfortunate *Belvidera*, carry'd ſuch an Impreſſion with it as to make her refrain from further Obſervations about her, yet the abhorrence ſhe had entertain'd for *Hilliana*'s Function, made her very earneſt with me to expoſe all Perſons under her Denomination in their proper Colours, that as my Brother, Practitioner in *Garrulity*, has with wonderful Dexterity and Succeſs, laid forth the unjuſtifiable and baſe Practices of the *Knights* of the *Induſtry*, to redreſs the Grievances of his Sex; ſo ſhe could not but think it my Duty to lay open the *Ladies of Sedulity*, that are indefatigable in the ſearch of Women of Virtue and Modeſty, to diveſt 'em of that Character, to leſſen the Inconveniencies of *Mine*. Which I gave my Aſſent to by a promiſe of Performance when it lay in my Power; and becauſe amidſt my Knowledge of other Affairs, (which the Title affirms to be *Univerſal*) I am very much to ſeek for an Account of ſuch *Cattle*, I hereby invite all my Correſpondents, *Male* or *Female*, under what ſoever Claſs or Diſtinction they may paſs, to give me a true Light into this *Myſtery of Iniquity*, and whatſoever is ſent me of this Nature, that Modeſty can bear with, ſhall be faithfully inſerted for the Publick Good. 'Till then, my Readers muſt hold themſelves ſatisfy'd with other Occurrences Time and Opportunity furniſh me, with tho' I care not how ſoon their Relations come to Hands, for I conſult the Honour and Intereſt of the *Ladies*, with as much Fervency, as the *Male* TATLER does that of the *Gentlemen*; and cou'd wiſh as heartily to ſee *Pimps*,

Panders

Panders and *Bands*, as much humbl'd and diſcountenanc'd, as the World has lately ſeen *Gameſters* and *Sharpers*.

But Mrs. *Everchat* is juſt now come in, to furniſh me with materials for the preſent, and I ſhall loſe her good Opinion, which ſhe is very ſparing of, except to particular Friends, if I'm not altogether attentive to ev'ry Particular ſhe brings. She's a Lady that ſhews her Youth only by her Diſcourſe, and being Miſtreſs of an *Inquiſitive* Genius, is as *Communicative* of what ſhe hears, as thoſe can be that let her into their *Secrets*. She never *asks* a Queſtion, but ſhe makes a *Reply* to it her ſelf, before you can give her an Anſwer, and never comes from *Church* but has all the Ladies and Gentlemen's *Apparel* as readily at her Fingers Ends as the *Text*. Not a Ribbon to a Cane, a Knot, or a Fan eſcapes her, and her Memory is ſo very good, that by running over the Names of thoſe that compoſe the Audience there, ſhe wou'd be of excellent Uſe in all probability to Mr *Rich*, (if ever he opens Houſe again) to tell Noſes for him in the Play-houſe. A Marriage ſtruck up, in or about *London* without her Knowledge, renders her Inconſolable, and ſhe is not only perfectly acquainted with the Fortunes and Characters of the *Bride* and *Bridegroom*, but can tell you how the Match came about, and by whoſe means. She's punctual to a Second of a Minute, as to the Time when the Prieſt joyn'd their Hands, when they Supp'd, and went to Bed; and if a *Sack-Poſſet* happens to be *Curdl'd*, runs away with the Notice of it to ev'ry one ſhe ſees, and deals it about to the Immortal Memory of thoſe that made it. But as theſe *Marriages* muſt be between Perſons of *Figure*, ſo 'tis the ſame with her as to *Buryals*, nothing under a Lord's, Knight's or Alderman's is introduc'd in her Memory, and ſhe not charges her ſelf with the Recital of it, unleſs it be a Subject for Quality to treat of. All her Airs are copy'd from the Court, becauſe ſhe is ſomewhat related to one that ſerves the *Queen's* Kitchen, and to be thought ignorant of any Tranſaction that occurs there, is immediate Death to her. In a word, War and Peace, Births, Marriages and Murthers, Hiſtory and Poetry, Plays, Muſick, Meetings and Balls, Love and Gallantries, are the Subjects ſhe is always ready to talk inceſſantly of, and nothing comes amiſs to her but ſpeaking commendably of any body but her ſelf, without ſome tokens of Reſerve, while ſhe ſhews her Ignorance in her Endeavours to give proofs of her Senſe, and makes it appear, that ſhe underſtands *nothing*, by attempting to be thought appriz'd, and perfect Miſtreſs of every *thing*.

So much for the Deſcription of her; Now for Hers of other People. *Dear Crackenthorpe*, ſays ſhe without giving me leave to take notice of her: *You don't tell me how you like this Suit of Knots, and this Cherry-colour'd Trimming.* Lady Mary Plauſible *thought to win me over to a good Opinion of* Hers, *by telling me they were wonderful pretty, but I had the ſatisfaction to know the Merits of 'em ſo well, as to mortify her to the laſt degree, by taking no manner of notice of what ſhe had on. Oh! the Folly of our Sex to think a Woman of Prudence is to have her Underſtanding byaſs'd by their commending what cannot go without all People's Approbation, when I never ſaw any thing ſo ill choſen and diſagreeable as hers in all my Born-days. Prithee, what's the reaſon the* Players in Drury-Lane *diſappointed the Town laſt* Tueſday-*Night, and made ſeveral Ladies as well as my ſelf dreſs and undreſs again before* Bed-*time.* When without giving me leave to aſſign the Reaſon, ſhe tells it her ſelf, by ſaying, *The Lord* Chamberlain *did not think fit to give them Liberty of Acting without owning his* Authority. Again, *Methinks Mr.* M——s *is a charming Actor, I ſhould be glad to know what Houſe he is to belong to now they are divided.* And immediately reſolves the Queſtion ſhe mak s her ſelf, by affirming, *He as turn'd himſelf over to the* Queen's-Theatre *in the* Hay-Market, *and ſhall have her for a conſtant Auditor.* At laſt ſhe gives me opportunity of making a Reply when ſhe cannot give it to her ſelf, by asking me about the Subject, *Eſtiphania* and I were talking of, and being made acquainted with it, ſhe tells me ſhe would ſtep in for an Aſſiſtant, and make one in the Society that had undertaken the ſuppreſſing of Lewd Practices. For to do Juſtice to her Character, ſhe had as great an Abhorrence for *Vitious Women* as ſhe had for *Silence*, and *Taciturnity* about *their* Intriegues is as much out of date with her, as ſpeaking *nothing* about *her ſelf*. Virigir's *unlawful Amours with* Deſdemona, continues ſhe, *are no Secret to the whole Town that rings with 'em; or if they were, had ſhe the Gift of Continence at this time (or any other) to conceal 'em ſhe would not, therefore ſhe her ſelf was* big *till ſhe was* deliver'd *of the Story of the* Silver Warming-Pan *which he had preſented his Miſtreſs with for the ſervice of her* laſt *Child. Neither could ſhe contain her ſelf for* applauding Deſdemona *for* one *thing, while ſhe held her ſelf oblig'd to blame her for* others. Which was this, Amongſt others that had wip'd *Virigir*'s Noſe, before and after his Intercourſe, with this Piece of Dalliance, *Sir* Timothy Chub *was reſolved to ſtep in for a* Pretender, *and accordingly was received very handſomely at her Houſe with* Madam *in his Company*, and four Silver Candleſticks *on the Table, which the too credulous* Virigir *had preſented her with, upon which he took occaſion after a ſhort Viſit to ſay, That they were* too little *for the reſt of the* Furniture, *and left her for that time with a Reſolution to oblige her with ſuch as were* larger. *Accordingly comes a Goldſmith's Servant next Morning with four very tall and weighty Candleſticks, with a Meſſage that he had Orders from a Perſon unknown to leave 'em with the Miſtreſs of that Houſe, which Errand of his was readily comply'd with, and the Preſent immediately taken in without any manner of heſſitation. What does Sir* Timothy *next day but follow his Gifts in* Perſon, *in hopes to have the Fruition of that Idol he had offer'd ſo much Silver to? But contrary to expectation, after* the demand of his Name and Buſineſs *by her Servant, and his telling her that he* was the Gentleman that ſent her the Candleſticks the Day before, *He was diſmiſs'd in ſearch of another Filt with this Anſwer*, That *Deſdemona* was reſolved to be private, and that the Candleſticks were *too little*, as he had been pleas'd to ſay *hers* were. I could love her for this Anſwer, ſays *Eſtiphania*, but the generality of her Proceedings are ſo foul and unwarrantable, that one good Action cannot attone for a multitude of bad ones, and this is rather an inſtance of her Tricking, than her unwillingneſs to be Unfaithful to the abus'd *Viriger*. So we broke up Converſation, after having bemoan'd the Condition of her *kind Keeper*, who had *Underſtanding* enough to be uſeful in his Generation another way, than accompanying himſelf with other Mens *Caſt-Miſtriſſes*, and had Wealth enough to be communicative of his Subſtance otherwiſe, than in making Proviſion for the Increaſe of Debauchery and Prophaneſs.

†‡† *The Virtuous* Imoinda *being now down in the Straw with her* Fourth *and* laſt *Child, without any Father for it, declares, ſhe is reſolved to obſerve an exact Neutrality in the Preſent War between the Two Play-Houſes, till ſhe gets up again. When that Houſe which ſhews it likes her* Whining *beſt, may have her at its* Service, *provided ſuch* Articles *be drawn up for her Continuance in that* Station, *as may be more binding on their ſides that employ her, than thoſe of* Marriage *would be on hers, had ſhe any* Husband *to play* faſt and looſe *with.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

†‡† A Pindarick ODE on His Excellency John Duke of Marlborough, Prince of the Holy Empire, Marquis of Blandford, Earl of Marlborough, &c. with a View of the 3 laſt Glorious and Memorable Campaigns. Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick Lane, Price Six Pence.

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